

REMARKS

Claims 2-18 are pending in this application. Applicants appreciate the Office Action indication that claims 2-5 and 15-18 are allowed and claim 11 contains allowable subject matter.

By this Amendment, claims 6, 7 and 15 are amended. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

The Office Action objects to the specification. Claims 7 and 15 are amended, as required by the Examiner, to provide proper antecedent basis to obviate this objection. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 6, 7, 10, 12 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,103,572 to Ricklefs. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action asserts that Ricklefs discloses all elements recited in claim 6. However, Applicants respectfully submit that Ricklefs does not disclose or suggest providing a signal indicative of the position of a light spot falling on the detector which is produced by the returned beam, said signal thereby indicating the amount of lateral displacement of the stylus tip, as recited in claim 6.

Ricklefs discloses a resonating cavity formed by a laser 8 and a mirror 2a (2b). See Figs. 1 and 4, and col. 2, line 67 - col. 3, line 17. When the position of the mirror 2a is changed by sliding or tilting relative to the laser 8, the quality of the resonating cavity is varied. See col. 3, lines 4-17. Thus, Ricklefs discloses detecting whether a stylus is in contact with a surface by detecting a quality of the resonating cavity, such as the resistance of laser diode. Ricklefs does not disclose or suggest detecting a change of the stylus position by providing a signal indicative of the position of a light spot...produced by the returned beam, as recited in claim 6.

For at least the above reasons, Ricklefs does not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claim 6, and claims 7, 10, 12 and 13 depending therefrom. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 6, 7, 10, 12 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 8, 9 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Ricklefs. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

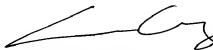
Applicants respectfully submit that claims 8, 9 and 14 are each patentable in view of the patentability of claim 6 from which they depend, as well as for the additional features they recite. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 8, 9 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Claim 11 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but is indicated to contain allowable subject matter. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 11 is patentable in view of the patentability of claim 6 from which it depends, as well as for the additional features it recites. Withdrawal of the objection to claim 11 is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: May 5, 2003

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